

``23r The Honorable Ann Kobayashi

Chair, Committee on Budget

Honolulu Hale, 530 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: BILL 11 (2013) Executive Operating Budget and Program

Hearing: Monday, April 8, 2013, 9:00am

My name is Maile Kanemaru, Director of Honolulu Weed and Seed.

I am testifying in support of Bill 11, Executive Operating Budget and Program, to sustain the Weed and Seed Program.

Weed and Seed is a program sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii, in partnership with the YMCA of Honolulu.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, churches and private businesses has helped to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the designated neighborhoods. It is doing substantial good in our communities to improve the quality of life. The City and County of Honolulu has benefited greatly by the weed and Seed Program, based on the two-prong approach of "weeding out" criminal activity and introducing "seeding" activities and programs ensuring long-term positive changes.

There are no funds available for Weed and Seed from the Department of Justice. It has been cancelled on the national level. In Hawaii, we received the permission from the DOJ to continue with the program, including using the name and logo, recognizing that W&S in Hawaii is robust and supported by the community stakeholders.

We are depending on local government and private donations to continue the program. The current funds end in December of 2013. We are currently operating from a Grant In Aid from the State Legislature and from a budget allocation from the City Council last year. An allocation from the City Council will assist Weed and Seed in continuing to leverage funds from the private sector businesses and Foundations.

Thank you for your consideration

Maile Kanemaru, Director Weed and Seed

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